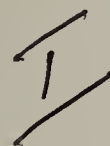


URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1963

Town Hall  
ROYSTON  
HERTS



ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1963

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Councillor P. L. Jacklin  
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1963 - 1964

COUNCILLORS:

R. J. GAVIN  
Chairman of the Council

MRS. E. A. KING, J. P.  
Vice-Chairman of the Council

G. E. C. Bedwell

P. L. Jacklin

F. N. Clarke, J.P.

G. W. Shakespeare

B. W. M. Elcox

F. J. Smith

P. L. Gray

G. W. Stevens

H. G. Haddock

E. A. Thompson

OFFICERS:


Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,  
Clerk of the Council

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,  
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector  
(Retired - 30th September, 1963)

JACK WILD, A.M.I. Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.Inst. H.E.,  
Engineer and Surveyor and Public Health Officer  
(From 1st October, 1963)





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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Royston Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry Circular 1/64 I present an annual report for the year 1963.

For the year the local death rate (11.2) falls below the national figure (12.2). The live birth rate (18.5) is again above the national figure. The local infant mortality rate is seen to be very favourable but the stillbirth rate exceeds the national figure.

There was no local incidence during the year of serious infectious disease.

I would acknowledge in the preparation of this report the assistance of Mr. J. Wild, your Engineer and Surveyor who is responsible for the sections on sanitary conditions. Also I would thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

Victor R. Walker

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1964.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	1,637
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1963					6,600
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1964 (estimated)					2,023
Rateable Value (1st April, 1963)	..	..	..	..	£370,449
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1963/4)	..	..	..	..	£1,498

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1963

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Royston Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England and Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	115	64	51		
(Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>		
(All	122	69	53		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	18.5	18.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	5.7%	
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u> (Legitimate	3	3	-		
(Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All	3	3	-		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				24.0	17.3
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	125	72	53		
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>	74	34	40		
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	11.2	12.2
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 week	-	-	-		
(At 1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-		
(At 4 - 52 weeks	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>		
(All	1	-	1		
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births				8.2	20.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	8.7	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	0.0	
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	0.0	14.2
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)				0.0	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)				24.0	
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)					
Number of deaths				None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				0.0	0.28



## Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year local population again showed an increase (250) on the previous year. Live births (122) were 2 more than for 1962 and local deaths (74) numbered 5 more than the previous year.

## SECTION B

### Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Lee Valley Water Company by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

The Lee Valley Water Company reported on Bacteriological and Chemical examinations of the water during the year. 96 Bacteriological and 10 Chemical samples of water were examined and all conformed to the standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Temporary measures were continued to control flooding of the irrigation beds at the Sewage Works, following consultations with the Consulting Engineers. The agreement was continued with the farmer of land adjoining the Sewage Works for the preparation of three irrigation beds on his land together with the necessary ditching, etc. to allow for any overflow from the works. The beds on the Sewage Works were also scraped and ploughed in rotation, and these efforts prevented any untoward flooding. The whole system was however rendered inoperative by the sealing off of the soil by residue from trade wastes.

Negotiations with regard to the discharge of Trade Effluents from Industrial Works were continued between the firms concerned and the Consulting Engineers.



The Consulting Engineers completed their investigations into the provision of a new Sewage Disposal Works and a report was received and considered.

Twenty-eight new houses built by private enterprise were connected to the sewage system during the year.

One small sewer extension was carried out during the year, from Ermine Close to Serby Avenue to serve one new dwelling. This will also serve the whole of Lower Serby Avenue when development takes place.

There are thirty-nine houses in the district which have cesspool or septic tank drainage. Cesspools are emptied once a year by the Council free of charge.

#### Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £4,822. -. -d. (net).

A once weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, the refuse collectors working on an incentive bonus scheme which proved the work could be done well within the week.

The search for a new site for a tip was unsuccessful and tipping continued on the existing site.

Maintenance of the tip being continued and advantage taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatment against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

#### Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme worked satisfactorily during the year and the following work was carried out:-

Total number of private premises treated	-	28
Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip	-	8
Total number of business premises treated		9
Total number of sewer maintenance treatments	-	-
Total number of premises treated under annual contract	-	1

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 45.

## Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	28
Under the Public Health Acts	84
Under the Factory Acts	18
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	3
Milk and Dairies Orders	2
Food Shops and Stores	120
Bakehouse Inspections	12
Prevention of Nuisances	52
House Drainage	36
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	48
Rates and Mice Destruction	66
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	2
Miscellaneous Inspections	72

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows :-

Statutory Notices served	-
Informal Notices served	36
Notices complied with	36
Houses demolished	7
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	5
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	3

## Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	146
Plans and applications withdrawn	4
Plans and applications approved	123
Plans and applications disapproved	15
Plans and applications decision pending	4

## SECTION D

### Housing

No houses were erected by the Council during the year.

Twenty-eight new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

Two properties were approved during the year for Improvement Grants under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, six applications for Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings were approved.



## Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

No Conditional Approvals under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1962, were granted for the siting of caravans and no Site Licences were issued in respect of single units on isolated sites.

The provision of a Municipal Caravan Site was further considered by the Council and site layouts were prepared to fit in with possible housing development in the future.

## Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

## SECTION E                      INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling food-stuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6	2	-
Grocers	15	3	2
Greengrocers	6	2	5
Wet Fish	3	-	1
Cafes	5	-	-
Canteens	6	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	2	2	-
Dealers in Sweets	14	-	-
Dealers in Cakes	10	2	2
Dealers in Bread	5	-	-
Beer, etc. (Off Licence)	3	-	-
Wines and Spirits etc. (Off Licence)	2	-	-
Public Houses	9	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	-	-

### Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 15 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this district.

Fish Fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this Area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Barratt & Company Limited of Wood Green, London.



## Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

## Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 132 inspections were made to the premises enumerated on page 6, and to other food premises. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

## Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds, and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

## Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

## Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

No new circumstances arose to alter the view that there is no demand for slaughtering facilities in the Urban District at the present time.

## Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed :-

Wet fish	28 lbs.
Tinned and packed food	110 lbs.

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations continue to be enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in all cases provided in preceding years.

Periodic inspections are made to ensure that the premises and appliances are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

## Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Three cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

## Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above privately owned pool and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

## Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	34	18	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (excluding outworkers).	10	11	-	-
Total	49	32	-	-



2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u> (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	3	3	-	-	-
Total	7	7	-	-	-

Outworkers:

There are two outworkers reported in the District, employed on the making of "wearing apparel".

## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year (after correction) numbered :- Measles - 145, Whooping Cough - 2, and Food Poisoning - 3.

Measles was epidemic among school children in the first quarter of the year. The three cases of food poisoning constituted one family outbreak, the causative organism being Salm. Typhi-murium but the actual foodstuff was not identified.

There was no other report of serious infectious disease within the district during the year.

### Vaccination against smallpox

With no national alarms during the year efforts were directed to obtaining primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health.

### Immunisation

The standard use of a TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus - continued to be urged in three separate injections between 6 and 18 months, with a fourth (booster) dose at the age of infant school entry. There is locally a high degree of parental acceptance.

Against poliomyelitis the routine exhibition to infants of three separate doses of SABIN vaccine by the mouth continued unchanged. With the near disappearance nationally of reported cases there is a considerable percentage of missed appointments for second and third oral doses, possibly through parental forgetfulness since a vaccine dose by mouth is now so undramatic. It is expected that in future an extra (booster) dose of such anti-poliomyelitis oral vaccine will be offered to children and other contacts whenever and wherever a single case of the disease has been confirmed.



# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Deaths during the year 1963

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & Over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Comment: New notifications of tuberculosis are seen to continue low.

Two deaths (both elderly males) occurred in the local population during the year from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

VICTOR R. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1964.

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